

UNITED STATES COURTS
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
FILED

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON DIVISION

OCT 11 2006

MICHAEL N. MILBY, CLERK OF COURT

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

V.

AMBROSIO RODRIGUEZ

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CRIMINAL NO. H-06-052S

-8

JUDGE LEE H. ROSENTHAL

PLEA AGREEMENT

The United States of America, by and through Donald J. DeGabrielle, Jr., United States Attorney for the Southern District of Texas and Richard D. Hanes, Assistant United States Attorney, and the defendant, Ambrosio Rodriguez, and the defendant's counsel, pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(A) and 11(c)(1)(B) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, state that they have entered into an agreement, the terms and conditions of which are as follows:

The Defendant's Agreement

1. The defendant agrees to plead guilty to Count One (1) of the Indictment. Count One (1) charges defendant with Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine [Ice], a Schedule II substance in an amount equal to or greater than fifty grams, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846, 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(A)(viii). The defendant, by entering this plea, agrees that he is waiving any right to have the facts that the law makes essential to the punishment either charged in the indictment, or proved to a jury or proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

Punishment Range

2. The statutory maximum penalty for a violation of Title 21, United States

Code, Sections 846, 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(A)(viii), is a term of imprisonment which may not be less than 10 years and not more than life and a fine not to exceed \$4,000,000. Additionally, the defendant may receive a term of supervised release after imprisonment of at least 5 years. Title 18, United States Code, Sections 3559(a)(3) and 3583(b)(2). Defendant acknowledges and understands that if he should violate the conditions of any period of supervised release which may be imposed as part of his sentence, then defendant may be imprisoned for the entire term of supervised release, without credit for time already served on the term of supervised release prior to such violation. Title 18, United States Code, Sections 3559(a)(3) and 3583(e)(3). Defendant understands that he cannot have the imposition or execution of the sentence suspended, nor is he eligible for parole.

Mandatory Special Assessment

3. Pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3013(a)(2)(A), immediately after sentencing, defendant will pay to the Clerk of the United States District Court a special assessment in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per count of conviction. The payment will be by cashier's check or money order payable to the Clerk of the United States District Court, c/o District Clerk's Office, P.O. Box 61010, Houston, Texas 77208, Attention: Finance.

Fine and Reimbursement

4. Defendant understands that under the Sentencing Guidelines, the Court is permitted to order the defendant to pay a fine that is sufficient to reimburse the government for the costs of any imprisonment or term of supervised release; if any is ordered.

5. Defendant agrees that any fine or restitution imposed by the Court will be due and payable immediately, and defendant will not attempt to avoid or delay payment.

6. Defendant agrees to make complete financial disclosure by truthfully executing a sworn financial statement (Form OBD-500) prior to sentencing if he is requested to do so. In the event that the Court imposes a fine or orders the payment of restitution as part of the Defendant's sentence, the Defendant shall make complete financial disclosure by truthfully executing a sworn financial statement immediately following his sentencing.

Cooperation

7. The parties understand this agreement carries the potential for a motion for departure under Section 5K1.1 of the Sentence Guidelines. The defendant understands and agrees that whether such a motion is filed will be determined solely by the United States through the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Texas. Should the defendant's cooperation, in the sole judgment and discretion of the United States, amount to "substantial assistance", the United States reserves the sole right to file a motion for departure pursuant to Section 5K1.1 of the Sentencing Guidelines and Policy Statement. The defendant further agrees to persist in that plea through sentencing, fully cooperate with the United States, not oppose the forfeiture of assets contemplated in paragraphs 20 and 21 of this agreement. The defendant understands and agrees that the United States will request that sentencing be deferred until that cooperation is complete.

8. The defendant understands and agrees that "fully cooperate" as used herein, includes providing all information relating to any criminal activity known to defendant, including but not limited to trafficking in methamphetamine. The defendant understands

that such information includes both state and federal offenses arising therefrom. In that regard:

- (a) Defendant agrees that this plea agreement binds only the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Texas and defendant; it does not bind any other United States Attorney or any other unit of the Department of Justice;
- (b) Defendant agrees to testify truthfully as a witness before a grand jury or in any other judicial or administrative proceeding when called upon to do so by the United States. Defendant further agrees to waive his Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination for the purpose of this agreement;
- (c) Defendant agrees to voluntarily attend any interviews and conferences as the United States may request;
- (d) Defendant agrees to provide truthful, complete and accurate information and testimony and understands any false statements made by the defendant to the Grand Jury or at any court proceeding (criminal or civil), or to a government agent or attorney can and will be prosecuted under the appropriate perjury, false statement or obstruction statutes;
- (e) Defendant agrees to provide to the United States all documents in his possession or under his control relating to all areas of inquiry and investigation.
- (f) Should the recommended departure, if any, not meet the defendant's expectations, the defendant understands he remains bound by the terms of this agreement and cannot, for that reason alone, withdraw his plea.

Waiver of Appeal

9. Defendant is aware that Title 18, United States Code, § 3742 affords a defendant the right to appeal the sentence imposed. The defendant agrees to waive the right to appeal the sentence imposed or the manner in which it was determined **on any grounds set forth in Title 18 U.S.C. § 3742.** Additionally, the defendant is aware that Title 28, United States Code, § 2255, affords the right to contest or "collaterally attack" a conviction or sentence after the conviction or sentence has become final. The defendant

waives the right to contest his conviction or sentence by means of any post-conviction proceeding, **including but not limited to Title 28, United States Code, §§ 1651, 2241 and 2255.**

10. The defendant further waives any rights under Title 28, United States Code, § 2241 to challenge the manner in which the sentence is executed or the legality of the defendant's detention. In exchange for the Agreement with the United States, Defendant waives all defenses based on venue, speedy trial under the Constitution and Speedy Trial Act, and the statute of limitations with respect to any prosecution that is not time barred on the date that this Agreement is signed, in the event that (a) Defendant's conviction is later vacated for any reason, (b) Defendant violates any provision of this Agreement, or (c) Defendant's plea is later withdrawn.

11. In agreeing to these waivers, defendant is aware that a sentence has not yet been determined by the Court. The defendant is also aware that any estimate of the possible sentencing range under the sentencing guidelines that he may have received from his counsel, the United States or the Probation Office, is a prediction, not a promise, **did not induce his guilty plea**, and is not binding on the United States, the Probation Office or the Court. The United States does not make any promise or representation concerning what sentence the defendant will receive. Defendant further understands and agrees that the United States Sentencing Guidelines are "effectively advisory" to the Court. *United States v. Booker*, 125 S.Ct. 738 (2005). Accordingly, Defendant understands that, although the Court must consult the Sentencing Guidelines and must take them into account when sentencing Defendant, the Court is not bound to follow the Sentencing

Guidelines nor sentence Defendant within the calculated guideline range.

12. The Defendant understands and agrees that each and all waivers contained in the Agreement are made in exchange for the concessions made by the United States in this plea agreement.

The United States' Agreements

13. The United States agrees to each of the following:
- (a) If defendant pleads guilty to Count 1 of the indictment and persists in that plea through sentencing, and if the Court accepts this plea agreement, the United States agrees not to oppose defendant's anticipated request to the Court and the United States Probation Office that he receive a two (2) level downward adjustment pursuant to U.S.S.G. Section 3E1.1(a) should the defendant accept responsibility as contemplated by the Sentencing Guidelines;
 - (b) If the defendant qualifies for an adjustment under U.S.S.G. Section 3E1.1(a), the United States agrees to request an additional one level departure based on the timeliness of the plea or the expeditious manner in which the defendant provided complete information regarding his role in the offense if the defendant's offense level is 16 or greater.
 - (c) The United States agrees not to oppose sentencing at the low end of the USSG guideline range.

United States' Non-Waiver of Appeal

14. The United States reserves the right to carry out its responsibilities under guidelines sentencing. Specifically, the United States reserves the right:

- (a) to bring its version of the facts of this case, including its evidence file and any investigative files, to the attention of the Probation Office in connection with that office's preparation of a presentence report;
- (b) to set forth or dispute sentencing factors or facts material to sentencing;
- (c) to seek resolution of such factors or facts in conference with defendant's counsel and the Probation Office; and,

- (d) to file a pleading relating to these issues, in accordance with U.S.S.G. Section 6A1.2 and Title 18, United States Code, § 3553(a).

Sentence Determination

15. Defendant is aware that the sentence will be imposed after consideration of the United States Sentencing Guidelines and Policy Statements, which are only advisory, as well as the provisions of Title 18, United States Code, § 3553(a). Defendant nonetheless acknowledges and agrees that the Court has authority to impose any sentence up to and including the statutory maximum set for the offense(s) to which Defendant pleads guilty, and that the sentence to be imposed is within the sole discretion of the sentencing judge after the Court has consulted the applicable Sentencing Guidelines. Defendant understands and agrees the parties' positions regarding the application of the Sentencing Guidelines do not bind the Court and that the sentence imposed is within the discretion of the sentencing judge. If the Court should impose any sentence up to the maximum established by statute, or should the Court order any or all of the sentences imposed to run consecutively, Defendant cannot, for that reason alone, withdraw a guilty plea, and will remain bound to fulfill all of the obligations under this plea agreement.

Rights at Trial

16. Defendant represents to the Court that he is satisfied that his attorney has rendered effective assistance. Defendant understands that by entering into this agreement, he surrenders certain rights as provided in this plea agreement. Defendant understands that the rights of a defendant include the following:

- (a) If defendant persisted in a plea of not guilty to the charges, defendant

would have the right to a speedy jury trial with the assistance of counsel. The trial may be conducted by a judge sitting without a jury if the defendant, the United States, and the court all agree.

- (b) At a trial, the United States would be required to present witnesses and other evidence against the defendant. Defendant would have the opportunity to confront those witnesses and his attorney would be allowed to cross-examine them. In turn, the defendant could, but would not be required to, present witnesses and other evidence on his own behalf. If the witnesses for defendant would not appear voluntarily, he could require their attendance through the subpoena power of the court.
- (c) At a trial, defendant could rely on a privilege against self-incrimination and decline to testify, and no inference of guilt could be drawn from such refusal to testify. However, if the defendant desired to do so, he could testify on his own behalf.

Factual Basis for Guilty Plea

17. Defendant is pleading guilty because he is guilty of the charges contained in Count 1 of the indictment. If this case were to proceed to trial, the United States could prove each element of the offense beyond a reasonable doubt. The following facts, among others would be offered to establish the Defendant's guilt:

On December 9, 2004, Michael Ross BULLARD, Luis PEREZ, and Julia ROHMFELD, were arrested after delivering 2 pounds of methamphetamine [ice]. Following his arrest, PEREZ identified the source of the ICE as Baldemar Eduardo SANCHEZ, a/k/a "Eddie." PEREZ also identified Heriberto BELTRAN, a/k/a "Little Eddie," as a distributor for SANCHEZ. According to PEREZ, Alex LNU, later identified as Alejandro REYES-MAA, received the ICE from Mexico and transported it to Houston, Dallas, and other locations. PEREZ identified Manuel Ivan CAVAZOS-Aguirre as the ultimate source of supply for the ICE. PEREZ stated that he had been recruited by CAVAZOS to steal customers from SANCHEZ and direct them to REYES-MAA.

On February 16, 2005, agents received the first of seven court orders authorizing interception of wire communications between persons suspected of being criminally associated with this drug trafficking organization. Between the dates of February 16, 2005, and September, 2005, numerous telephone conversations between Ambrosio RODRIGUEZ and co-defendant Baldemar Eduardo SANCHEZ were intercepted in which RODRIGUEZ discusses bringing methamphetamine [ice] across the Mexico/United States border for delivery to SANCHEZ. The contents of these intercepts were corroborated by the post arrest statements of co-defendants Katie BINGAMAN, Jacob GALLEGOS, and SANCHEZ, who identified RODRIGUEZ as having delivered multiple pounds of methamphetamine [ice] to SANCHEZ from Mexican sources of supply throughout the course of the conspiracy.

Breach of Plea Agreement

18. If defendant should fail in any way to fulfill completely all of the obligations under this plea agreement, the United States will be released from its obligations under the plea agreement, and the defendant's plea and sentence will stand. If at any time defendant retains, conceals or disposes of assets in violation of this plea agreement, or if defendant knowingly withholds evidence or is otherwise not completely truthful with the United States, then the United States may move the Court to set aside the guilty plea and reinstate prosecution. Any information and documents that have been disclosed by defendant, whether prior to or subsequent to this plea agreement, and all leads derived therefrom, will be used against defendant in any prosecution.

19. Whether the defendant has breached any provision of this plea agreement shall be determined solely by the United States through the United States Attorney's Office,

whose judgment in that regard is final.

Forfeiture

20. This plea agreement is being entered into by the United States on the basis of defendant's express representation that he will make a full and complete disclosure of all assets over which he exercises direct or indirect control, or in which he has any financial interest. Defendant agrees to forfeit whatever interest he may have in assets related to the instant drug charges.

21. Defendant consents to any agreed order of forfeiture or judgment, and further agrees to take all steps necessary to pass clear title to forfeitable assets to the United States, including, but not limited to, surrendering of title, signing a consent decree, stipulating facts regarding the transfer of title and basis for the forfeiture, and signing any other documents necessary to effectuate such transfer. Defendant also agrees to direct any banks which have custody of defendant's assets to deliver all funds and records of such assets to the United States.

Complete Agreement

22. This written plea agreement, consisting of thirteen (13) pages, including the attached addendum of defendant and his attorney, constitutes the complete plea agreement between the United States, defendant and his counsel. No promises or representations have been made by the United States except as set forth in writing in this plea agreement. Defendant acknowledges that no threats have been made against him and that he is pleading guilty freely and voluntarily because he is guilty.

23. Any modification of this plea agreement must be in writing and signed by all parties.

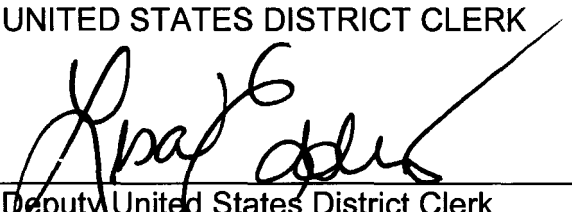
Filed at Houston, Texas, on October 11, 2006.

X 
Defendant

Subscribed and sworn to before me on October 11, 2006.

MICHAEL N. MILBY, Clerk
UNITED STATES DISTRICT CLERK


By:



Deputy United States District Clerk

APPROVED:

DONALD J. DeGABRIELLE, Jr.
United States Attorney

By:


RICHARD D. HANES
Assistant United States Attorney
Telephone: (713)567-9375
Facsimile: (713)718-3307
Email: richard.hanes@usdoj.gov


HARRY GONZALES
Attorney for Defendant
Telephone: (713)247-8122
Facsimile: (713)247-0342
Email: harrygonzales@hotmail.com

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
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v.

AMBROSIO RODRIGUEZ
Defendant

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CRIMINAL NO. H-06-052S

JUDGE LEE H. ROSENTHAL

PLEA AGREEMENT - ADDENDUM

I have fully explained to defendant his rights with respect to the pending indictment. I have reviewed the provisions of the United States Sentencing Commission's Guidelines Manual and Policy Statements and I have fully and carefully explained to Defendant the provisions of those Guidelines which may apply in this case. I have also explained to Defendant that the Sentencing Guidelines are only advisory and the court may sentence Defendant up to the maximum allowed by statute per count of conviction. Further, I have carefully reviewed every part of this plea agreement with Defendant. To my knowledge, Defendant's decision to enter into this agreement is an informed and voluntary one.

Defendant's Attorney

Date

I have consulted with my attorney and fully understand all my rights with respect to the indictment pending against me. My attorney has fully explained and I understand all my rights with respect to the provisions of the United States Sentencing Commission's Guidelines Manual which may apply in my case. I have read and carefully reviewed every part of this plea agreement with my attorney. I understand this agreement and I voluntarily agree to its terms.

X 

Defendant

10-~~11~~-06

Date 